

**buildings along East Elizabeth Street. The intent of this survey is to identify any pre-existing structural conditions, thereby documenting conditions for NCDOT and property owners to act as a baseline assessment for potential damage claims. NCDOT will meet with property owners to discuss the surveys and verify their acknowledgment of the survey results. NCDOT will also conduct a post-construction survey.**

**Citizen Comment #4 (August 25, 2009)**

- Can the State start this project sooner than 2013? This is taking too long to resolve!!!

**Response: The approved 2009-2015 Transportation Improvement Program (TIP) has construction scheduled to begin in Fiscal Year 2013. Proposed revisions to the TIP would move the construction start date beyond 2013 due to budget constraints.**

**Citizen Comment #5 (August 25, 2009)**

- With the expense of drawbridge going up and one more to replace after this project is done, why hasn't the fixed bridge from Machelhe Island to E. Ward Street been fully explored? This would cause less traffic problems during construction. Elizabeth Street could be two lanes and Herringbone parking for downtown on both sides. You're wasting money.

**Response: A fixed-span bridge from Machelhe Island to Elizabeth City was explored during the preliminary alternatives development process. This option was dismissed due to the high cost and potential property impacts associated with the span height necessary for boat passage.**

## **7.5 Additional Project Coordination**

- NCDOT has continued its consultation with the North Carolina Division of Marine Fisheries and National Marine Fisheries regarding the project's potential Section 7 effect on the Shortnosed Sturgeon and NCDMF's recommendation for an extended in-water moratorium. These issues have been resolved, and documentation of a "No Effect" call on the Shortnose sturgeon is included in the appendix.
- NCDOT coordinated with DENR-Division of Coastal Management regarding the location of Areas of Environmental Concern in the study area, which were not identified in the Environmental Assessment. Section 8.2 includes a description of these areas.